Loop Line connecting Jogighopa to Guwahati

4399. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) by when the loop line connecting Jogighopa to Guwahati via Goalpara district would be commissioned;

(b) whether, in the extended Broadguage Railway line from Guwahati to Tinsukia, Dibrugarh and Ledo, most of the stations don't have raised platforms suitable for Broadgauge Trains; if so, by when would the ministry construct raised platforms;

(c) whether there is any plan to connect Moran with Dibrugarh town (25 miles only) with rail line; and

(d) why the ministry neglect in constructing the Bridge over Brahmaputra at Bogibil near Dibrugarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The line along with bridge (Naranarayan Setu) from Jogighopa to Goalpara has been commissioned and opened to traffic on 15-4-1998. Balance section from Goalpara to Kamakhya is ready for commissioning. CRS's sanction has been applied for and section will be opened as soon as his sanction is received.

(b) High level/medium level/rail level platforms have been provided at all Railway stations as per BG standards applicable to all Indian Railways and depending upon the requirement of traffic. There is no proposal for further raising any platform on these sections at present.

(c) This connection is under consideration as a part of the proposed Bogibeel Bridge project.

(d) There is no neglect on the part of Railway. Final location survey of bridge over Brahmaputra at Bogibeel is under progress and final report is expected to be ready later this year. Once this report becomes available and firm costs are known, requisite clearances will be obtained and work would be taken up.

Progress of Kumar Ghat-Agartala Rail Line

4400. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that progress of work on Kumar Ghat-Agartala rail line is much behind schedule;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the work on large portions has not been taken up because of delay in survey and also because of delay in sanction of estimates by the Railway Board; and

(c) whether Railways propose to take up the channel work simultaneously,

as these are going to take 2-3 years time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Part detailed estimates have been sanctioned for a stretch of 60 km i.e. 40 km from Agartala end and 20 km from Kumarghat end Contracts for earthwork and minor bridges have been awarded for the entire 60 Km length ana the work is in progress Financial progress of about Rs. 30 cr. has been achieved during 1999-2000.

For 78 km hilly terrain, RITES were awarded the contract in 1997 for carrying out final location survey. Due to inhospitable terrain and insurgency problems, survey is being done under police protection and, therefore, is proceeding at a slow pace. Part report for 18 km length has been submitted by RITES. Survey for balance portion is expected to be completed by end of May, 2000.

(c) The work of tunnels will be taken up after the field survey including geo-technical studies are completed and their design finalised.

Double Lines Between Tirupati-Gudur and Pakala-Dharmavaram

4401. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Wthether priority would be given for laying of double line between Tirupati and Gudur and Pakala and Dharmavaram;

(b) if so, the budgetary provisions therefor; and

(c) the target for completing the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) On Tirupati-Gudur section, doubling of Gudur-Renigunta section is an approved work which is presently in progress and would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Regarding doubling of Renigunta-Tirupati section, a survey has recently been completed The results of the survey have revealed the cost of doubling of the 10 km. long